AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode material, characterized by comprising:

graphite particles, each having a structure where a plurality of flat graphite fine particulate assembles or bonds non-parallel with each other, each of the graphite particles having an aspect ratio of 5 or less and a volume of fine pores in the range of 10 to 10^5 nm in a volume of 400 to 2000 cm^3/kg, and each of the graphite particles having a surface; and

a layer of carbon formed on the surface of each of the graphite particles,

wherein a ratio (by weight ratio) of the layer of carbon to a respective graphite particle is in the range of 0.001 to 0.01, and

wherein an average particle diameter (50% D) is 10 µm or more and 50 µm or less, the true specific gravity is 2.22 or more, the bulk density is 780 kg/m^3 or more and 1000 kg/m^3 or less, the specific surface area measured by a BET method is 2.0 m^2/g or more and 5.0 m^2/g or less, and, in a Raman spectrum analysis with argon laser light of a wavelength of 5145 Å, an R value expressed by R = I1350/I1580 (in Raman spectrum, I1580 denotes an intensity of a peak P1 in the range of 1580 to 1620 cm^{-1} and I1350 denotes an intensity of a peak P2 in the range of 1350 to 1370 cm^{-1}) is less than 0.2.

2. (Cancelled).

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3. (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode material of claim 1, characterized in that the viscosity of slurry measured under the conditions below is 0.5 Pa·s or more and 4.0 Pa·s or less.

1) Slurry preparation conditions

binder / (binder + negative electrode material) = 0.10 (by weight ratio)

(binder + negative electrode material) / (binder + negative electrode material + solvent) = 0.45 (by weight ratio)

binder: polyvinylidene fluoride (intrinsic viscosity: 1.1 dl/g) and

solvent: N-methyl-2-pyrohlidone

2) Viscosity measurement conditions

shearing speed: 4.0 sec^{-1} at 25°C

4. (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode material of claim 1, characterized in that the bulk density (D1) under pressure of 33 MPa is 1850 kg/m^3 or more and a rate of variation of the bulk density when the pressure is released, which is represented by an equation below, is 0.3 or less.

Rate of variation of the bulk density when the pressure is released = {D2 - D3} / D2

D2: bulk density under the pressure of 97 MPa, and

D3: bulk density when the pressure is released

5. (Cancelled).

6.   (Previously presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode, which includes the negative electrode material of claim 1.

7.   (Previously presented) A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery, having, as the negative electrode thereof, the nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode of claim 6.

8.-11. (Cancelled).

12.   (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode material of claim 1, wherein said layer consists essentially of carbon.

13.   (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode material of claim 1, wherein said layer consists of carbon.

14.   (Previously presented) The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery negative electrode material of claim 1, wherein the layer of carbon covers the respective graphite particle.